

58th Legislature successful for WyNG

By Deidre Forster
Public Affairs Officer
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Land acquisition for Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center got the green light from the Wyoming State Legislature during its January budget session.

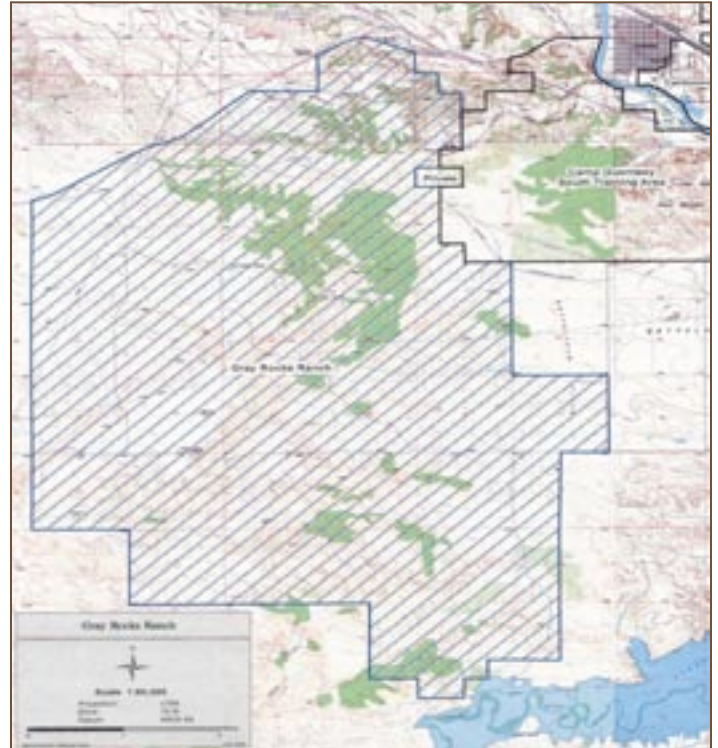
Wyoming's lawmaking body approved a \$10 million appropriation for land purchase around the camp. Command is hoping to use the majority of it, \$7.7 million, to purchase the Gray Rocks Ranch.

The ranch, located adjacent to the camp's South Training Area, will more than double the size of the camp, should the Wyoming Military Department be successful in purchasing it.

"This is a wonderful show of support for growing Camp Guernsey," said Col. Steve Mount, garrison commander. "The extra land will allow us to meet the needs of a larger variety of customers and continue to grow."

The money to buy the ranch won't be available until July 1. Other appropriated funds also will become available at that time.

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The Gray Rocks Ranch will more than double the size of usable acres at Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center.

WyANG first in nation to host Active Duty unit

The Wyoming Air National Guard is the first ANG unit in the nation to host an Active Duty squadron for the U.S. Air Force Air Mobility Command. The active associate partnership will create the 30th Airlift Squadron at the Wyoming Air National Guard base in Cheyenne.

A 10-person command staff for the 30th AS, will be in Cheyenne by July. Lt. Col. Steve Hopkins, currently stationed in Little Rock, has been named the squadron commander.

Recommendations forwarded to the President by the BRAC Commission included moving four C-130s to Cheyenne specifically to create the association. All 12 aircraft will belong to the WyANG.

The active duty Airmen will fly Wyoming's C-130s and fall under the operational control of the 153rd Airlift Wing. Administrative control will remain at the 463rd Airlift Wing in Little Rock.

F.E. Warren Air Force Base will provide the active duty Airmen with the same services it provides Airmen stationed on that base.

Soldiers and Airmen of the Year named

By Senior Airman Rebecca Downey
153rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs Specialist
Wyoming Air National Guard

The Wyoming National Guard has named its best of the best for 2005.

Two Wyoming Army National Guard Soldiers were recently recognized for their outstanding service.

Spc. Bryan Radkey, of Jackson, with Detachment 1, Battery B, 2-300th Field Artillery, was named as the Soldier of the Year.

Radkey was selected for perpetuating the traits and principles of leadership.

Sgt. Daniel P. Nesvik, of Cheyenne, with the 1022nd Medical Company, was chosen as the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for the Wyoming Army National Guard.

Nesvik was selected for his traits and principles of leadership within the noncommissioned officer corps.

"These Soldiers represent the high caliber of Wyoming Army National Guard Soldiers," said Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Russell, state command sergeant major.

The Soldiers, Airmen, NCOs, and officers who compete within their ranks were recognized for their leadership, military bearing and knowledge of military customs, community service and personal achievements.

"The recipients have shown us their leadership skills and dedication to their units. They are shining examples of the best the Wyoming National Guard has to offer," said Col. Harold Reed, 153rd Airlift Wing commander, Wyoming Air National Guard.

Senior Airman Sheila A. Sells, personnel specialist for the 153rd Mission Support Group, was named the Airman of the Year.

Staff Sgt. Jennifer L. Lovering, who since has been promoted to technical sergeant, the airlift wing commander's executive assistant, was named the

Wyoming Air National Guard's NCO of the Year.

"I was very grateful, overwhelmed with joy and felt very blessed for the honor of being named NCO of the Year. I am flattered that the board selected me to represent the Wyoming Air National Guard. I was very proud to have my seven year old son with me at the time I received the award, because I am not only a mother to him, but a role model as well," Lovering said.

Master Sgt. Alan R. Stoinski, 153rd Security Forces Squadron, was named First Sergeant of the Year.


Master Sgt. Scott A. Hasert, 153rd Command and Control Squadron, was chosen as the Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

Capt. Rachel E. Ming, Wyoming Air National Guard Headquarters, was named Company Grade Officer of the Year.

Master Sgt. Trudy Woodcock, assigned to Wyoming Air National Guard Headquarters, was named the Flag Heritage Team Member of the Year.

Senior Airman Rusty Ridley, who since has been promoted to staff sergeant, of the 153rd Airlift Wing, was recognized by the Wyoming Air National Guard's Enlisted Forum, the 153rd Airlift Wing's junior enlisted group, as the Outstanding Performer of the Year for exceeding the standards of performance in his duties.

Staff Sgt. Shane G. Nye, 153rd Airlift Wing; Tech. Sgt. Vernon (Scott) Neckermann, 153rd Civil Engineer Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Cynthia A. Green, 153rd Communications Flight; and Tech. Sgt. Harold S. Plitt, 153rd Civil Engineer Squadron, were named as the Chief's Council Core Value Award recipients.

That award recognizes the junior enlisted members of the Wyoming Air National Guard who best represent the Air Force/Air National Guard Core Values: "Integrity First, Service before Self, and Excellence in all we do." 



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Submissions are accepted via e-mail at deidre.forster@wy.ngb.army.mil. Photographic submissions should be 300 dpi or more. All submissions will be edited for length and content.

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Most requests funded by legislature

Funds

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The legislature also appropriated funds to continue to assist families and National Guard personnel, ensured money is available to do much needed maintenance on armories around the state, and funded the Oregon Trail State Veterans Cemetery chapel expansion.

More than \$544,000 has been earmarked for the cemetery's chapel expansion. And \$400,000 has been added to the money available to assist families of deployed personnel.

"Overall I would have to say this was a successful legislative session," said Doug Shope, Wyoming Military Department deputy director. "We can do a lot with the money we will get, even if we didn't get everything we asked for."

Four armories around the state, located in Gillette, Wheatland, Worland and Afton, will receive major renovations and repairs using the more than \$6.4 million appropriated.

Two unfulfilled requests were for an increase in the family assistance trust fund corpus and a recruiting


incentive for members of the Wyoming National Guard.

A bill seeking total reimbursement for SGLI, Servicemember's Group Life Insurance, was reduced by half during the session.

Wyoming National Guard members will be eligible, on an annual basis, for premiums of up to \$16.25 per month.

"Reimbursing SGLI premiums is a generous and public way for Wyoming residents, through the State Legislature, to show support for the members and families of the Wyoming National Guard," Wright said.

"We know of only two other states in the nation, New Mexico and Oklahoma, that offer similar benefits."

The Wyoming Legislature also agreed to fund the state's portion of construction costs for the new Joint Force Headquarters Complex and Army Aviation Support Facility, as well as agreed to the spending authority to see the projects through the construction process. 

Wyoming National Guard briefs and updates

WyARNG exceeds recruiting goal

The Wyoming Army National Guard exceeded its recruiting mission this year after only five months.

The goal of 1,665 soldiers, assigned in October 2005 by the National Guard Bureau, was exceeded in February when Wyoming's force grew to 1,670 Soldiers.

Command further plans to exceed the goal by at least 30 more Soldiers by Sept. 30, the end of the Fiscal Year.

"Our recruiting team and our units have done an outstanding job together recruiting in and around Wyoming," said Col. Brian Harmsen, Wyoming Army National Guard deputy chief of staff for personnel.

"We plan to continue to grow to help us meet the needs of our own state while still accomplishing military operations in other states and overseas."

Youth ChalleNGe ribbon cutting held

The Wyoming National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program's official ribbon cutting ceremony was held Feb. 6 at Camp Guernsey, Wyo.

Youth ChalleNGe is a five-month residence program designed to give at-risk Wyoming youth a

chance to succeed. Core components of the program include academics, citizenship, life-coping skills, civic service, leadership and physical fitness.

"This was an excellent way to introduce the first Wyoming National Guard Youth ChalleNGe participants, as well as the program, to the state," said Lt. Col. Shawn Powell, Wyoming National Guard Youth ChalleNGe director.

STARBASE teacher AFA Wyo. Teacher of Year

Susan Cardin-Hoffdahl has been named the Air Force Association's Wyoming Teacher of the Year. Cardin-Hoffdahl teaches at the Wyoming STARBASE Academy at the Wyoming Air National Guard, in Cheyenne.

She has worked at STARBASE since the program began in Wyoming, in 1994. STARBASE is designed to stimulate interest in math, science and technology, as well as to teach students about teamwork and goal setting.

All Laramie County fifth-grade students attend the one-week STARBASE course. Fifth-graders around the state also have the opportunity to participate via video conferencing.

Horses, camels and races ‘Oh my!’

Civilian exchanges with Tunisia begin with celebrations of the past

By Senior Airman Rebecca Downey
153rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs Specialist
Wyoming Air National Guard

December in the northern Sahara Desert at Douz, on the southern border of Tunisia, isn't anything like a Wyoming winter.

Sand dunes dot the hillside. Tourists mill about in shirt sleeves and ... there's camels. Plenty of them.

The small town of Douz was bustling with activity as people from around the world celebrated the International Festival of the Sahara.

Brig. Gen. Donald Haught, the assistant adjutant general-Air for Wyoming, Ken McCann, Cheyenne Frontier Days general chairman, and Maj. Steve Alkire, Wyoming's state partnership coordinator, visited the festival at the invitation of the event's organizers, Dec. 26 to Dec. 31.

The group was excited by the opportunity to watch the festival because it, like Frontier Days, celebrates rich traditions.

"We met with the Tunisian Air Force Chief of Staff and the Tunisian Chamber of Commerce Executive Director to gain insight and partner up with Tunisia," Alkire said. "We hoped to bring the flavor of CFD to Tunisia and vice versa."

McCann said he agreed. "We brought the high plains to the desert."

McCann presented festival organizers with CFD memorabilia and invited organizers to attend the Cheyenne celebration in July 2006.

The State Partnership Program partners state National Guards with countries around the globe for military and civilian exchanges designed to demonstrate military support to civil authorities, foster open market economies, improve military



Cheyenne Frontier Days General Chairman Ken McCann poses during a camel ride at the International Festival of the Sahara, in Douz, Tunisia, in December 2005. McCann invited festival organizers to CFD in July 2006.

interoperability between the United States and partner nations, and to assist with humanitarian efforts, among others.

The December visit by the ATAG and CFD chairman was the first of what Alkire said he hopes will be a long and fruitful civilian partnership.

"I believe the long term success of the State Partnership Program lies in a robust civilian partnership," Alkire said. "Ensuring Wyoming and Tunisian businesses, tourism agencies and civilians connect is important."

In February Alkire facilitated another civilian visit, this time targeting business.

Larry Atwell, president of the Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce; Cindy Garretson-Weibel, agribusiness director for the Wyoming Business Council; and Janet Cowley, director of convention sales for the Cheyenne Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, spent five days in Tunisia.

The group met with agriculture organizations, the Tunisian American Chamber of Commerce, and represented Cheyenne Mayor Jack Spiker to christen a sister-city relationship between Cheyenne and Hammam Sousse, a Mediterranean Sea tourist destination home to about 35,000 people. 